WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

JUNE 2025

FIELD DAY IS COMING – ARE YOU READY?

ARRL Field Day will be the weekend of June 28-29 this year. West Virginia Amateur Radio Club (WV8AR) is busy planning to set up for Field Day at the Lions Club facility in Liberty in northern Putnam County. I hear they are going to try to set up another station this year to move up a category in the competition.

Kanawha Amateur Radio Club (W8GK) is returning to Area 73 in Coonskin Park again. Perhaps the young ladies pictured at the GOTA station to the right will return too.

Steve Hoover, KF8ANK, the PIO for KARC this year is planning to appear on Buzz Browning's "Lunch Time Live" radio show on WWSA (FM 96.9) along with a representative from WVAR to publicize the event a week or so before Field Day kicks off. WWSA and Buzz have been big supporters of amateur radio over the past few years. The station has invited hams to appear at least three times recently and aired a number of Public Service Announcements about amateur radio recorded by Jim Damron, N8TMW.

So tune up your antennas, practice making (and logging) contacts and keep an ear out for your fellow West Virginia Amateur Radio Clubs during the big day. I'll be listening for you!

SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

Saturday, July 19, 2025	**Museum of Radio and Technology Summer Swap Meet**
Saturday, July 26, 2025	**The 67th WV State Amateur Radio Convention**
Saturday, August 9, 2025	**The Tri-State Amateur Radio Hamfest in Huntington,WV**
Saturday, August 16th, 2025	**The Portsmouth (Ohio) Radio Club HamFest**
Saturday, October 11, 2025	**Wood County (WV) Area Hamfest**
Sunday, November 2, 2025	**The Kanawha Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Hamfest**

THE BIG "Q"

In my short career as a dispatcher for the Department of Public Safety, AKA, the State Police, I had to learn a hodge podege of 10 codes and signal codes. Some translated smoothly from one department to another. Others didn't.

Now I am learning a whole new system of codes – the three letter Q codes that serve the same purpose; allowing brief, unambiguous communication of questions and answers between different stations which may or may not speak the same language with any degree of fluentcy.

About 1909 the British government developed the original Q codes as a list of abbreviations "for the use of British ships and coastal stations licensed by the Postmasteer General." These codes were soon adopted by a number of other countries. There were only 45 Q codes in the list which became effective July 1, 1913. Over the years Q codes have been dropped, added and had their meanings changed to reflect the evolution in radio communications. By 1970 there were over one hundred Q codes covering a range of topics from navigation, radio direction finding, meteorology, and search and rescue. Since the same Q code can be a question or an answer they are often identified by the CW {Morse Code) prefix INT for questions and UD for the answer. Even though Q codes were established for use in CW they are often used in voice communications and even in casual speech. I've often over heard one hamfest attendee ask another about his home "QTH" when asking about their home station.

Ranges of Q codes are assigned to different services. For instance the range from QAA to QNZ are primarily for Aviation use. The range from QOA to QOZ is occasionally used by the Maritime Mobile Service especially in the South Pacific and Antarctic regions. Finally, the range from QRA to QUZ are assigned by the International Telecommunication Union Radio Communication Sector (ITU-R). There is no law about using the Q Code assigned to a different service, Just make sure your intended reciever knows what you are up to.

Amateur Radio uses two different ranges of Q codes. The ARRL uses the range from QNA to QNZ for signals used in message handling nets to limit confusion. These are used only on the traffic handling nets. The second set is from the ITU-R sector . All of these must be looked at from the Amateur Radio viewpoint. Those that address charges for transmitting information don't make sense in an unpaid amateur service. An entire series in the ITU-R set that relate to maritime vessels and search and rescue are not usually used by amateur radio operators.

A response to a Q code is sometimes a single letter. For instance, if your answer to QRO? (Shall I increase power?) is Yes; you might send the single letter "C". It rhymes with "si", the Spanish for yes. For No, send the single letter "N" for no. If you just need to acknowledge you received a transmission reply with the letter "R" for Roger. Roger ONLY means you received the message. It does not mean you are going to take any further action. However, if you need to acknowledge you received and understood the message respond with either "SN" or "VE".

Some Q codes are used in novel ways. Sometimes QSY is used to refer to a physical relocation from one place to another instead of from one frequency to another. A new ham on the local net might have used "QSY from Ripley to Tornado" instead of announcing he had moved from Jackson County to Kanawha County.

Some non-standard and non-official Q codes exist. INT QLF asks if you are sending with your left foot, as a general comment on the quality of your sending. INT QNB asks how many buttons are on your radio. Responding QNB 25/5 means you have twenty-five buttons on your radio but only know what five of them do. QBL is unnderstood as "Quit Being a Lid", and is geneally used to indicate you are trying to be humorous.

There are several ARRL references for the Q codes used in smsteur radio. I don't have the space

here to list them all. But, here are a few common ones:

- QRL I am busy (or I am busy with _____). Are you busy?
- QRQ Send faster (__wpm). Shall I send faster?
- QRS Send more slowly (__wpm). Shall I send more slowly?
- QRT Stop sending. Shall I stop sending?
- QRV I am ready. Are you ready?
- QSL I am acknowledging receipt. Can you acknowledge receipt?
- QST General call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs and ARRL members. This is in effect "CQ ARRL." It is not just the magazine!

DAN HALL KF8BKS AND BOB DELAUTER KE8ZEC
SETTING UP FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY OPEN HOUSE
ON MAIN STREET IN ST ALBANS; APRIL 28, 2025

SALVATION ARMY AND WINLINK

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) debuted their SATERN Winlink Net on May 1st. The tactical call for the net is: SATEMAIL . All stations are welcome to check in by any Winlink mode that is available to you except for P2P.

Click the link for more information about SATERN:
https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/satern-program/

Q. What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes?

A. ReMorse code.

Q. What do you call an Amateur Radio Operator in a broken down pickup truck in the Arizona Desert with no AC?

A. Baked HAM.

WHAT CAME FIRST: THE ALLEN WRENCH OR THE HEX KEY?

Many people, myself included, often use these names interchangeably. However, that is not correct. The Allen Wrench was invented by William G. Allen and first made by The Allen Manufacturing Company of Hartford, Conneticut in 1910. Other companies still make similar "L" shaped hexagonal tools but they only resemble Allen Wrenches the way other facial tissues resemble Klennex. So, the Allen Wrench came first. If your version was made by anyone other than The Allen Manufacturing Company; you have a hex key.

EAST RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB REPEATER CHANGES

ERARC has made some major moves to their repeater system and more changes are coming! The frequency on the Windmill Gap repeater was changed from 147.06 MHz PL 103.5 to 145.20 MHz System Fusion Only. The 147.06 MHz PL 103.5 repeater has been moved to Kate Roland Mountain near Gardner Ridge in Princeton, WV where the 147.255 MHz repeater was in years past.

ERARC plans to link their 147.05 MHz and 145.49 MHz repeaters to improve portable 2 meter communications in the Bluefield, WV/VA region and Princetom WV area. No date for these linkages has been announced.

Thanks to Nelson Linkous, WZ8E; John Riddle, N8RIG: and Jay Belt, K8CTI for their efforts in implementing these relocations. And finally, thanks to George Fisher, KD4ZUA for keeping me informed of the happenings in the southern part of the Mountain State.

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted back issues of WV SPLATTER on their website at www.wv8ar.com . I have decided to send out theWV Nets and WV Clubs listings as separate documents once each quarter rather than each month to reduce the number of pages sent out over and over. Corrections and updates to those items will be held until the next quaeter.

I continually need more and different types of articles for WV SPLATTER. If you know of an event coming up in a couple of months, have an idea for an article you want to write, or something you want me to research and write about, then drop me an email at nettlescreek@frontier.com . I also need photos and artwork each month.

Use the same address to submit email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in being on the WV SPLATTER Distribution List. They don't have to be in West Virginia, they don't even have to be a ham.

I was recently asked about including advertisements for ham gear in WV SPLATTER. Ads for ham radio equipment, tools, and related items are welcome. Get them to me by the fifteenth of the month and I'll include them in the next months WV SPLATTER.

73 and thanks to all.
Jim Hudson, KE8PNY
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